

Message Text

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PAGE 01 PORT L 00424 221225Z
ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 EA-07 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04
H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01
SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 TRSE-00 AID-05 OMB-01 (ISO)W
-----262017Z 130270 /10

R 220916Z APR 77
FM AMEMBASSY PORT LOUIS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6654
INFO AMEMBASSY ANTANANARIVO
AMEMBASSY CANBERRA
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY PARIS
CINCUSNAVEUR
COMIDEASTFOR

C O N F I D E N T I A L PORT LOUIS 0424

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR PINT PLOS MP SE OAU CG AS
SUBJECT: MAURITIUS WEEKLY REVIEW - APRIL 22 (SUMMARY)

REF: PORT LOUIS 0424

1. PUBLIC CAMPAIGNING HAS INCREASED IN INTENSITY FOR THE MUNICIPAL ELECTIONS TO BE HELD APRIL 24. THERE HAVE BEEN SOME MINOR INCIDENTS OF VIOLENCE BETWEEN SUPPORTERS OF THE MAURITIAN MILITANT MOVEMENT (MMM) AND THE MAURITIAN SOCIAL DEMOCRATIC PARTY (PMSD) IN CUREPIPE, SUFFICIENTLY SERIOUS TO CAUSE THE POLICE RIOT UNIT TO BEGIN PATROLLING THE TOWN. FINANCE MINISTER RINGADOO, WHO IS DIRECTING THE GOVERNING COALITION'S CAMPAIGN, HAS EXHORTED ALL SUPPORTERS OF LABOR AND THE PMSD TO VOTE ON SUNDAY TO KEEP THE TOWNS OUT OF THE HANDS OF THE "POLITICAL ADVENTURERS" OF THE MMM. HE STRESSED THE IMPORTANCE OF THESE MUNICIPAL ELECTIONS, THE FIRST IN EIGHT YEARS, FOR THEY WILL EITHER GIVE THE GOVERNMENT A VOTE OF CONFIDENCE OR WILL RESULT IN A SLIDE TOWARD "COMMUNISM."
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2. THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY WILL MEET AT LEAST 12 TIMES IN MAY TO CONSIDER THE BUDGET FOR THE COMING FISCAL YEAR. LABOR MINISTER MOHAMED'S ANNOUNCED INTENTION TO INTRODUCE AN AMENDMENT TO THE INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS ACT TO END THE OBLIGATORY DUES CHECK-OFF SYSTEM HAS CAUSED A FUROR IN UNION CIRCLES. THE UNIONS FEAR THIS WILL PUT A BIG DENT IN THEIR

FINANCES. THEY CHARGE THAT THE GOVERNMENT IS TRYING TO WEAKEN THE TRADE UNION MOVEMENT. THE MMM BELIEVES THE MEASURE IS AIMED AT ITS UNIONS, WHICH PROVIDE MUCH OF THE PARTY'S MUSCLE AND FINANCING. THE UNION FEDERATIONS, INCLUDING NON-MMM GROUPS, HAVE THREATENED A SERIOUS REACTION, INCLUDING A POSSIBLE GENERAL STRIKE.

3. PRIME MINISTER RAMGOOLAM'S FORTHRIGHT SUPPORT FOR PRESIDENT MOBUTU AND FOR THE FRENCH-MOROCCAN INVOLVEMENT IN ZAIRE DREW ABSOLUTELY NO COMMENT IN THE MAURITIAN PRESS. RAMGOOLAM HAS BEEN ATTENDING THE SOCIALIST INTERNATIONAL MEETING IN AMSTERDAM AND THE FRANCO-AFRICAN SUMMIT IN DAKAR. IN A PRESS INTERVIEW HERE SYECHELLES PRIME MINISTER RENE SAID HE FAVORED A CONFERENCE OF GOVERNMENTS, NOT PARTIES, OF THE REGION TO ALERT WORLD OPINION TO THE NEED TO DEMILITARIZE THE INDIAN OCEAN. MAURITIUS AND THE SYECHELLES HAVE AGREED TO EXTEND THEIR EXCLUSIVE ECONOMIC ZONES TO 200 MILES. MAURITIUS WILL ESTABLISH A RESIDENT HIGH COMMISSION IN AUSTRALIA, WHERE ABOUT 25,000 MAURITIANS HAVE EMIGRATED IN RECENT YEARS. AFTER YEARS OF CAMPAIGNING FOR THE MEASURE, THE CIVIL SERVANTS' UNION HAS WON A 40 HOUR WORK WEEK.

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
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Channel Indicators: n/a
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Concepts: POLITICAL SUMMARIES
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Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977PORTL00424
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770147-0230
Format: TEL
From: PORT LOUIS
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
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Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770429/aaaaayhp.tel
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Litigation History:
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Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
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Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 16-Nov-2004 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
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Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2721409
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: MAURITIUS WEEKLY REVIEW - APRIL 22 (SUMMARY)
TAGS: PFOR, PINT, PLOS, MP, SE, CG, AS, OAU
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/331a8ea0-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009